Untangling Misunderstandings: Navigating Relationship Challenges with Friends in 2014.

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March 4, 2022

The whole issue began with a guy whose name I prefer not to mention. We had a disagreement, so I decided to stop talking to him. However, the next day, during physics lab, he handed me a letter apologizing for his behavior. I felt scared and even more irritated by him, so I told him not to contact me again.

Following that incident, my three friends started comparing me to him and threatened to stop talking to me after the 25th of March, which was the last day of our public exams. They even claimed that he was superior to them, which intensified my pain. Additionally, Prici and Sai got into a major fight in class, exchanging harsh words. As a result, Prici and I had a rift, and despite it being annoying, she joined in with my friends, teasing him and mentioning the date March 25th. Many misunderstandings arose between me and my friends.

Pradeep, despite claiming to dislike me, advised me not to speak to the guy anymore. I caught glimpses of him through the window several times, but he never turned to face me. It hurt when he saw me and gestured towards March 25th. I reasoned that if he was

happy without me, I should let him be. I was angry and upset with him, but I also knew that I had strong feelings for him. I wondered if I should stop talking to him, would he leave me saying “seritha podi” (good riddance)?

On January 27, 2014, I reminded myself about our friendship and the importance of not having self-esteem or ego. I had a little phase for Pradeep, thinking of him as the reason behind my feelings. I prayed not to see him at school because I knew that if I did, all my anger would resurface. The whole fight seemed silly to me, making me laugh but also feel a little sad. I realized it was pointless to argue with him over such trivial matters. I even pleaded with God to make him speak to me first, hoping to at least get a smile from him. I vowed not to initiate a conversation with him and decided that if he didn’t speak for an extended period of time, I would approach him. These were the thoughts and entries in my journal during that time. Then I received a text from him saying “hey,” and although I tried not to laugh, I couldn’t help but smile.

On January 28, 2014, his text melted my heart. I would have started the conversation if he hadn’t already. However, I expressed my displeasure with him since I was upset, and there was nothing wrong with that. I prayed to God not to see him at school again, but I ended up seeing him twice. I had to hold back my laughter, but it was evident that I was laughing at him. After that, we just talked and felt relieved. I even felt proud of him for his reaction to my previous attitude. He teased me playfully in response to my silly texts.

At the same time, I was growing tired of Prici. I couldn’t speak to her because I was upset and hurt. She also seemed upset that I was talking to Sai. So she left and went out, leaving Sofi and Sai to keep me company.

On January 30, 2014, Pradeep made a statement saying that he would rather have poison than admit that he likes me. Prici made me cry in the morning because she didn’t want to talk to me, even though I had already stopped talking to her. It was hard not to speak to our best friend who was sitting right next to us. I felt hurt, but I considered Prici to be like my Papu, so I tried to talk to her and convince her. I also felt sorry for Sai’s behavior. In the end, I decided not to bother Prici and respected her wishes. The only person I could speak to freely and without hesitation was Sai.

On January 31, 2014, after many days of silence, Pradeep finally spoke to me. He gave me a big smile on the last day of the month because he had texted me the night before, confessing that he really likes me. I hadn't noticed the text, but it made me smile the next day. I was also filled with joy. Prici changed her seat, not wanting to sit next to me anymore. She was hurt and had changed after my conversation with Sai. I couldn't force her to be with me, so I respected her decision, even though I couldn't change anything.

Prici seemed different now. Even new friends like Chandu and Sandy understood my situation, unlike Prici, who I believed had changed. It felt like she was distancing herself from our friendship. I tried everything to persuade her, but nothing worked. I couldn't tell if she changed because of me or if I changed because of her. Despite thanking her for introducing me to God, she started avoiding me completely after the incident with Sai. I felt like she used to make me feel comfortable in class, just like Sai did. It saddened me to no longer have her support. I wished she would forgive me, as I regretted saying something that upset her.

I decided to leave it all in God's hands. The problems at home were not unusual, but my only concern was Prici, and I couldn't act normal around her. There was something she said to Amma that hurt me deeply. I could accept whatever she said in class, but when it

came to conversations with Amma, her words struck a nerve. Despite everything that happened in class, I couldn't abandon Sai or Prici. I just wanted things to go back to normal. Because of all this, I couldn't even talk to Pradeep. I was upset and consumed by thoughts about Prici for two to three days. I knew that if I talked to Pradeep, I would unload everything on him and potentially hurt him. So I chose to stay silent.

Prici once told Chandu that I was her first friend, but now she seemed to be saying something different to Amma. It seemed like nobody was truly permanent, even Sai had the same mindset as Prici. I started to believe that my three closest friends didn't care about me and wouldn't miss me after school. I felt like they could easily make new friends. Everything might change after March 25th.

I also wondered why Prici cared for me in class when I had my parents to handle any issues that arose. I was agitated because I assumed she didn't have to worry about me anymore. I could sense that time was passing for her as well. Furthermore, she told Amma that she had other friends and decided to change her seat.

As everything was coming to an end, I decided that after school, I wouldn't keep in touch with them. I wanted to believe that I could fulfill their wish and erase myself from their lives. I thought I would never be in contact with them again. As per their wishes, I wanted to distance myself from them. I'm not exactly sure where it all started, but I was deeply upset after those few days, both with my family and friends. I had many thoughts and emotions about various things, from the guy who caused the initial issue, to family problems, and finally, the incidents with Prici and Sai. Dealing with their reactions towards me was extremely difficult. Unfortunately, Pradeep was not heavily involved in this situation, but his minor issues initially made me believe that he could also hurt me the same way Sai and Prici did. So I expected to be separated from my closest three friends.